MCGS Cemetery Project Proposal – Karen Merritt Sturgill
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[Mesa County Cemetery Project Page](#) **[www.mesacountygenealogy.org/Cemetery Page Preliminary.html]**

- In the 1980's MCGS members walked the cemeteries in Mesa County, and in the early 2000, the information was transferred to a digital file. It is now a searchable pdf document on the MCGS website but it only covers the burials up to the 1980's.

- Find-a-Grave, Billion Graves, some books in the library (the books have older lists.), and a few odd lists online have some but not all burial information.

- In 2004 MCGS member Dennis Jenkins in conjunction with the 'Colorado Cemetery Names Project' compiled photos and location information on our cemeteries which have now been added to the website.

- Marie Tipping of the Loyd Files Research Library, Kathy Jordon (local historian), Margo Lurvey (past MCGS member), and past Mesa County Historian Dave Fishell had done a huge amount of work on the historical details of our cemeteries that is being added to the website [however there is a good deal more to locate].

- We have, as a society, discussed the possibility of some type of project that society members could become involved with, and continuing the cemetery/tombstone work the society began in the 1980's and bringing it up to date seems like something that would be worthwhile.

- ***The proposal** is to design a comprehensive cemetery/obituary/etc. database that would be available on our website for those individuals looking for this information in Mesa County. This will include links to tombstone/cemetery information already found online, i.e. Find-a-Grave, Billion Graves, etc. so that we are not duplicating work. **This project <u>must</u> have a co-coordinator. I am discovering there had been a <u>huge</u> amount of duplicate work done in the past.***

- Possible tasks could included:

  - Walking cemeteries and updating burial information (good weather).
  - Locating and downloading obituary copies that could be add to the website (any time of year).
  - Photographing tombstones that need to be added to Find-A-Grave and Billion Graves (good weather).
  - Verifying the obituary indexing information in the Mesa County Public Library obituary database (there are discrepancies!) (any time of year).
  - Possible cemetery history videos, with details on some of our more interesting burials (good weather).
  - Perhaps more in-depth genealogy research on some of the more interesting burials (County/Town Founders, military veterans, business owners, First Families, etc.) (any time of year)
  - Perhaps involve community groups (scouts, homeschoolers, etc.)

- I have been working with Marie Tipping at the Loyd Files Research Library to transfer the information she and other researchers have compiled onto the dedicated 'Cemetery Project' webpage on our website.

- We do have a member interested in co-coordinating this project (although this project might work better with several co-coordinators), and several members who have expressed an interest in becoming involved.

- Just as a suggestion we might want to start with the cemetery mentioned at one of our previous meetings (was it Elmwood in Fruita?)

I would like to know what everyone might think about this type of project. It would be a **huge multi-year** project and in the past we have had difficulty maintaining volunteer interest in these types of projects so that is something to think about.

Let me know your thoughts via email at... librarian@mesacountygenealogy.org, I will forward this information to whoever becomes the co-coordinator(s) if the project is approved.